

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /125 W

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R 281427Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1316

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0508

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI CABINET CONDEMNS ARIK SHARON FOR PROMOTING

"IDEOLOGY OF INSUBORDINATION"

1. ARIK SHARON-RESERVE GENERAL, NEW KILUD KNESSET MEMBER  
AND PRESENTLY PRIME CREATOR OF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY--HAS PROVOKED  
A NEW ROUND IN THE "WAR OF THE GENERALS," EARNING A STRONG  
CONDEMNATION FROM THE ISRAELI CABINET.

2. IN INTERVIEW IN JANUARY 25 EDITIONS OF MAARIV AND YEDIOT  
AHARONOT, SHARON CHARGED THAT: A) CHIEF OF STAFF ELAZAR WAS  
PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARMY'S FAILINGS IN THE OCTOBER  
WAR; B) KEY IDF APPOINTMENTS WERE BASED ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS,  
A DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAD BEGUN WHEN BAR-LEV REPLACED RABIN AS  
COS; C) IDF HAD LOST UNIQUE QUALITY OF ORIGINAL THINKING SINCE  
RABIN LEFT; AND D) DAYAN HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD HAD NO CHANCE OF  
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BEING APPOINTMENT COS BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL VIEWS. SHARON

CALLED FOR ELAZAR'S DISMISSAL, SAYING THAT HE SHOULD HAVE RESIGNED AT LATEST RIGHT AFTER END OF OCTOBER WAR. HE ALSO IMPLIED THAT AN OFFICER UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES HAD A HIGHER DUTY TO HIS MEN WHICH WOULD ALLOW HIM TO DISOBEY ORDERS FROM HIS SUPERIORS.

3. AT ITS WEEKLY MEETING JAN 27, CABINET EXPRESSED FULL CONFIDENCE IN ELAZAR, INCLUDING HIS PREWAR AND WARTIME LEADERSHIP, CONDEMNED SHARON FOR PROMOTING AN "IDEOLOGY OF INSUBORDINATION" AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT MILITARY SECRETS COULD BE PASSED TO ENEMY BY CONTINUED PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF IDF WARTIME OPERATIONS.

4. AGRANAT INQUIRY COMMISSION, IN A SEPARATE ACTION, IS TO DISCUSS COMPLAINTS FILED BY FORMER COMMANDER SOUTHERN COMMAND SHMUEL GONEN AGAINST SHARON, CHARGING HIM WITH INSUBORDINATION FOR NOT CARRYING OUT ORDERS AND ENGAGING IN MILITARY OPERATIONS FOR WHICH HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY ORDERS.

5. DAYAN HAD DENIED SHARON'S ALLEGATIONS ABOUT POLITICIZATION OF IDF, ADDING THAT SHARON HAD DESTROYED HIS OWN CHANCES TO BECOME COS BY HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND ELECTION TO THE KNESSET. HE ALSO DISMISSED SHARON'S CHARGES CONCERNING PETRIFICATION OF IDF MILITARY THINKING AS GROUNDLESS. DAYAN WILL HAVE TO ANSWER PARLIMENTARY QUESTIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS IN NEAR FUTURE.

6. COMMENT: QUESTIONS WHICH MANY ISRAELIS ARE ASKING IS WHETHER SHARON'S CONTINUING ATTACK ON IDF LEADERS IS LIKELY TO HURT OR HELP HIM. AT LEAST SOME HAVE FORMED IMPRESSION THAT HE IS UNGUIDED MISSILE IN DANGER OF BURNING HIMSELF OUT.  
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